JAMES RIVE

THE DUTCH GAP CANAL

History of the Project from the Beginning.

The Obstacles Against Which the Work was Presecuted.

The Troops Engaged and the Labor Consumed.

Interesting Geological Reve-

INCIDENTS OF THE WORK.

The Pinishing Touches and the Explosion of the Bulkhead.

William H. Merriam's Despatch.

THE DUTCH GAP CANAL.

contoil to the death at the ground should be examined the concilu. Up, an ascension of the James to the scene of open lations, in the Greybound, within the next twenty-f. wer hours being fixed upon. On this trip, besides General Buller, Lieutenant General Grant and Major General B. Winch were Lieutenant General Grant and Major General B. Winch and the discovered from the outcroppings on the surface, by an anything of the material to be removed, ground and the character of the material to be removed, of far as it or wid be discovered from the outcroppings on the surface, by the was introduced to General Grant and confined the material to be removed, of the material to be excavated. The project was deemed of the interview when the during the work. I will be the speed of the interview with the state of the interview with the difficulty in getting tools transfer to the feasible that the consequence of the control of the contro

the usual way by means ploughs.

THE REMEMY OFERS ON On the 13th of August the direct shell came from the Gowlett House battery, mak the gad havoe in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth N. Lieutenant Norman Crippen and taking the arm from Lieutenant Norman Crippen and taking the arm from Lieutenant Wm Swartwout, A Hundred and Sixty-ninth, an Handeville, Assistant Surgeon, shell striking eleven persons. The first sicharge for nearly two batteries opened with coehorns (a mortars). Firing from them comortars). Firing from them comortars. Firing from them comortars, or battery of coehorns, canal about one hundred yards, co.

weeks, our battery of cochorus, attended south of the canal about one hundred yards, co. attended south of the sensor.

From that time on there was but little variation in the shelling up to September 15, 186 t. when the enemy spened with eight-inch mortars, a led shelled us most furiously for several days.

At times they would shell like f. Ly, and again but moderately, so we could well nigh tel 1 about the time a motorately, so we could well nigh tel 1 about the time a motorately, so we could well nigh tel 1 about the time a motorately, so we could well nigh tel 1 about the time a motor of the greater than at any other time dering the progresse of the greater than at any other time dering the progresse of the south of September our casualities to vare very much spread on the surface. During this particular ported that the shell would not penetrate, causing the explication to take place on the surface. During this particular ported the scapes were really miraculous. For example, a shell secapes were really miraculous. For example, a shell secape were really miraculous. For example, a shell the surface of the surface of the surface of the surface of the surface for full task with equal emotions of courage, fon and patriousm. The following comprises a but of the regiments employed on the work from first to last.—The One Hundred and Sixty ninth. New York Volunteers. Colonel Alonzo Alden, commanding; One Hundred and Fixteenth New York Volunteers Fourth, Sath, Tenth, Thirty-eighth and One Hundred b United Sistes colored troops.

The Area of Lanois of the sequence the control to the c

Thirty-eighth and One Hundredth Limited States colored troops.

The AYER AGE LABORS OF THE MES.

Since the commenteement of the construction the labors of these troops on the work have averaged one bundred and twenty mean a day for a period covering ten hours each day, working eighteen days in August, twenty have days in September and twenty six days in October, the days in September and twenty six days in October, from the first of November, ontil the time of completion from the first of November, ontil the time of completion the average consisted of one, hundred and thirty men a day working cleven and a hat f hours each day.

DIMENSIONS OF THE CANAL.

The entire length of the Dute is Gap cannal is five hundred and twenty two feet; the grantest width of the top of exavation owing one hundred and, twenty-two feet. The greatest depth of that width is forty-live feet. The width of the cannal at the top is easy feet, and als the bottom forty feet. At high water the cannal is sixteen feet deep, it is proper here to say that all this immen se excavation has been accomplished by means of hermes.

The geological fratures of the work hat e proved extermely interesting to all intelligent military men in both armies, and can scarcely fail of absorbing the interest of scientific men throughout the country. First of all jb may be remarked that the strata are enclosely various. The first effection that of the ordinary yellow Virginia (marred) soil. This is between twelve and fifteen feet deep, immediately under his lies a stratum of coarse—fillow sand from two to four feet deep, in which were

By command of Hajor General BUTLER.
Eb. W. Shyrs, Assistant Adjt. Gen.
Official—Issuat W. Shatz, Assistant Adjt. Gen.
General Butler's order having the desired effect the
ebel prisoners were withdrawn. The following is the
eneral's order on the subject:—

General's order on the Sudject:

GENERAL GREENS—NO. 134.

DEPARTMENT OF VISCIMIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.
ARMY OF THE JAMES, IN THE FIRLD, VA., Oct. 20, 1856.
It having been officially certified by General Lee, commanding Confederate forces, that the prisoners of war of the computing Confederate forces, that the prisoners of war of the Confederate forces this army put to work in the trenches near Fort Gilmer, have been withfluswn, to be treated as prisoners of war, it to work in the canal at Dutch Gap, in retaliation, shall be at once withdrawn, and sent to Point Lookout, to be held and treated hereafter as prisoners of war.

Numbers of these prisoners having certified in writing to the Commanding General their desire to take the oath of allegiance, because of the inhumanity of the Confederate authorities towards them, which application was declined, lent it should be said that these prisoners took the oath of allegiance to the United States under durens, it is now ordered that so many of them as choose, after this order is read to them, be permitted to take the oath of allegiance and be sent North, to be there found employment by the government, as other prisoners of war have been who have returned to their loyalty to the United States.

By command of Major General BUTLER.

From October up to Friday last the work on the canal was conducted with the utmost vigor. The working parties laboring cheerful despite the continually flying projectiles.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES—PREMARITION OF THE MUM.

On the night of the 30th of December a force of mon

was conducted with the utmost vigor. The working parties laboring cheerful despite the continually flying projecties.

THE FINIMENTO TOUCHES PREVARATION OF THE MINE.

On the night of the 30th of December a force of men directly under the supervision of Major Michie, Chief Engineer of the department, commenced to load and lamp the mines—tamping consisting in the "eration of filling the galleries leading to the mines was bags of sand. In some of the mines the powder was contained in the cans, each holding one hundred and thirty-five pounds. These cans had a small neck, which was inserted in a water tight wooden box, several of them being placed side by side in the same chamber. The tuse ignited the powder in the box, and through this the powder the powder in the necks of all the cans, as well as the cans themselves. In other mines the powder was contained in large rubber bags, each containg about eight hundred pounds. All the mines were simultaneously exploded by means of the Gemez fuse. This fuse is composed of a composition which burns with the amaging velocity of a mile in four seconds. The different mines being at different distances from the point of ignition, this instantaneous Gemez fuse was necessary in order to ignite the different mines at the same instant. The Gemez fuse was ignited by a time fuse was minestant. The Gemez fuse was ignited by a time fuse burning at a much slower rate, to enable the officer (Major Michie) and the force to aftely retire.

All preparations were completed at half-past three o'clock this afternoon, when Major Michie lighted the fuse and crossed from the north to the south side of the river, the fuse having been cut to burn twenty minutes.

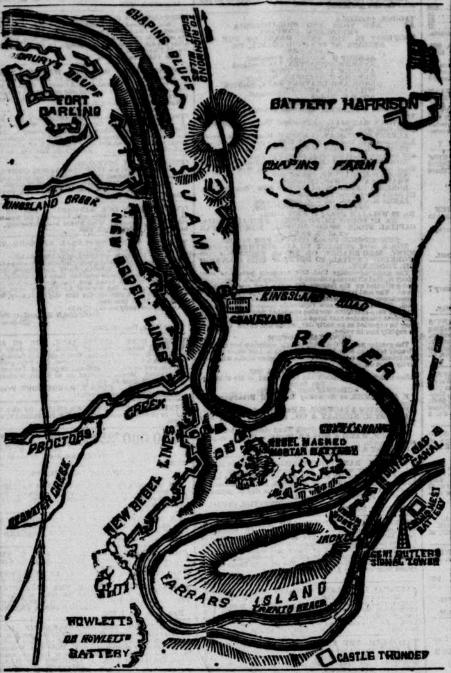
At 4en minutes to four o'clock the explosion took place, and was followed by a short, rumbling sound. A dense black smoke at first immediately following the upheaval of the earth, which was to turn followed by a dense cloud of white smoke, which entirely filled the Gap, and effectually concaled the debris of the explosion. The lifting of t

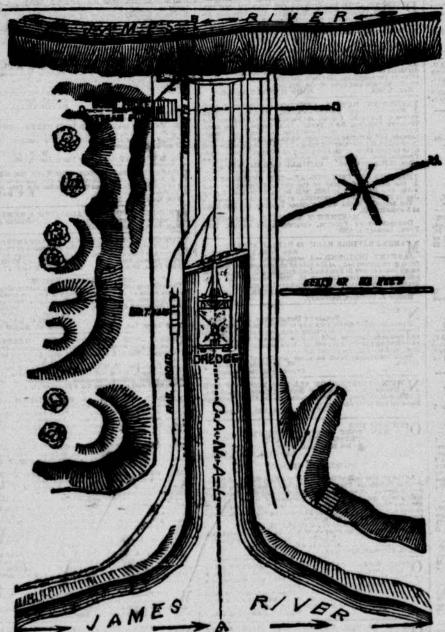
Mr. S. Cadwalla der's Despatch CITY POINT, Jan. 2, 1865.

EXPLOSION OF THE BULKHRAD OF DUTCH GAP CANAL. The mine at the head of the Dutch Gap canal was exploded at twelve minutes before i our o'clock yesterday afternoon, in the presence of Major General Butler and staff; General Ludlow, who has hat, charge of its con-struction; Brigadier General Collia, S enator Clark, of New Hampshire, and myself, as the sole representative of the press. Eleven in the forenoon had been fixed as the time for firing the train, but the usua.' delays occurred, and we were subjected to nearly a ve hours anxious waiting in the bleak wind of a New Year's Day. The result of the explosion was hardly what was ex-

powder, but fell back substantially into the same posttion. A crater was formed, into which the water ran slowly from the canal below. This extended about two-thirds of the distance from the head of the water in the canal to the edge of the water in the James. No con-pection between the canal and the river was established.

shel Defences of James River from Dutch Gap to Brary's Haff.





PROFILE VIEW.



TRANSVERSE SECTION.



GEOLOGICAL

1 on 1 2—Common Virginia red clay,
3—Rec, sand and gravel, with regardable matter,
4—Sand a 2d coarse gravel, with iran ore,
5—Coarse grav, cland white sand, colored from tree above.

6 and 7—Dark clay, quite hard, containing fragment of petrified and carbonated wood.
8 and 9—Thin str. 4s of white sand and white clay.

FORMATION.

to his side and his jaw fell; he was then dead, and I laid him on the floor; I was just about getting the cigars when I saw Friery pulling the knife out of Harry's neck and plunge it in again; the parties that were with Friery immediately left when they saw the knife; several persons came in before the murder was committed; when I laid Harry on the floor I ran out to Broadway and Houston street for a policeman; as I got there I saw a young man by the name of Christopher Richards coming back with a policeman; as I got out doors I saw a sleigh that was standing between our door and Friery's door, with two white homes, drive off with some persons in it; the person now present is Friery; he keeps a place heat to Harry's, No. 14 Houston street; the policeman rapped for assistance; several policemen then came; I took Harry's personal effects and gave them to a policeman, after taking an account of them; the body was removed about an hour afterwards; I went down to the station house, gave my name in, and went back to the house again.

Christopher Richards, being duly sworn, says:—I geside at No. 168 West Nineteenth street; I went into Harry's place between two and three o'clock on Tuesday morning; I saw Harry Lazarus, the barkeeper and two others present; Harry saked gae to go home, as I was sleik; I told him I would if he would; he said he would; I went out of the door to go home, and looked to see if he was coming too; i walked off the stoop, and I saw a sleik; I told him I would if he would; he said he would; I went out of the door to go home, and looked to see if he was coming too; i walked off the stoop, and I saw a sleik just atopped near the door, with Priery and four or five others in it; I thought there would be something up, so I stayed outside the door; they went into Harry's place, and I afterwards went in after them; I sat down near the stove and table; I was acquainted with Friery; I saw Friery walk to Harry. 'You are a good little fellow;' at the same time he pulled out a haffe and double edged; Friery

came; I went inside with the policemen, and I saw the deceased lying on his back on the floor, dead, in a pool of blood; the blade of the knife appeared to be six or seven inches long; I judged it to be a knife that did not close up.

James McDonald, being duly sworn, deposes and says:— I reside in Ninetieth street, between Third and Fourth avenues; Mr. Clark and myself came along in a sleigh about four o'clock on Tuesday morning; we went into No. 14 Houston street to get a cigar; they had none; we then went next door to Mr. Lazarus; I saw in Moors's place Priery and two or three other men; Friery is a partner of Moore's; I had not been with them before that night; Friery did not go in with us; he went in before us; when I was in there I saw Friery and Lazarus wrangling and talking about fighting; the next thing I saw was Lazarus cut in the neck by Friery; after the man was stabbed I saw the knife in Friery's hand; they then all left the house but the barkeeper and myself; Friery appeared to be intoxicated at the time; I did not see Lazarus do anything to Friery but jawing; I then said "this man is murdered;" I walked out and jumped into the sleigh with Clark; Friery jumped in afterwards, and we went towards his house; I told him that he had better go home; that he would be arrested, as the man was dead; we were going to Harlem with our sleigh, and he came along with us; he did not go at my solicitation; the sleigh belonged in Harlem and I reside in Yorkville; he had not been with us proviously; I had not seen him before on that evening; I and Mr. Clark were arrested about, four o'clock yesterday afternoon; Friery was with us when we were arrested; be had been with us from the time of the murder; we were in a lager beer saloon on Third avenue and 11th street when we were arrested and partner were patrolling togsther about twenty minutes of a party of four men, in a sleigh with gray horse, who had committed a murder; Houston and ladies in it; I knew the man who drove the sleigh, and knew it could not be the part

ble on the subject, it will be necessary for our government to take other steps. We find a score of ways of making the Americaan feel the advantage of treating us fairly. We hope that no such warfare may arise, but that Mr. Seward will see the propriety of abolishing negotiations which are a serious injury to our people, while they are of no benefit to their neighbors. Our government are doing all that lies in their power to prevent raids from our shores, and there is no reason to doubt that they will be successful. At all events the parsport system will not help them; and we have full right to demand that while we are doing our duty in the premises no burdensome penalties shall be laid upon us.

The United States steamer Saginaw has arrived here The United States steamer Saginaw has arrived here with the seven rebel pirates of Hogg's party, who were arrested on the steamer Salvador off Panams in November, and whose transmission across the Isthmus was prevented by the authorities of Granada. They are confined in Fort Alcairaz, and will be tried here.

The anniversary of emancipation is being celebrated here by the colored people with great impressiveness.

Arrived, steamer Brother Jonathan, from Oregon and Vancouver's Island, with \$175,000 in gold, all but \$4,000 of which was from Portland.

Obituary.

SAMURL H. GARDNER, late United States Collector of Revenue for the First district of Missouri, died at his residence in St. Louis, on Christmas day. His illness was sidence in St. Louis, on Christmas day. His tilness was brief, and his death an event for which his many friends were scarcely prepared. Mr. Gardner was for many years a leading member of the St. Louis bar, and was respected for the clearness and soundness of his judge ment and the honesty and sincerity of his convictions. He was the first Collector in the St. Louis district under the United States Revenue law, and was noted for his faithful and successful execution of a law full of imperfections. He leaves a large circle of friends who esteemed him as a citizen, an officer and a man. CAPTAIN EDWARD B. HARNETT.

Captain Edward B. Harnett, late of Company A, Third regiment, Excelsior Brigade, New York Volunteers, des parted this life on Sunday morning. Captain Harnets joined the gallant Excelsior Brigade at its organization a joined the galiant Excessior Brigade at 18 organization as second lieutenant, and participated with it in its many hard fought battles and arduous campaigns. He was everely wounded at the battle of Williamsburg, which was the first battle the brigade was in, and in which they covered themselves with renown that remained untaphished while they were in the service. Captain Harnett was a good soldier, and was highly esteemed by his numerous friends in this city. He died of disease contracted in the service.

GEORGE RELLY. Private George Kelly, of Company D, Sixty-eighth New York Volunteers, was, by mistake, killed near Chattan nooga, Tennessee, on the night of December 27, by a Union picket.

The on the Sidewalks.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Please call the attention of the proper authorities to the too long tolerated nuisance of little hills of ice left across the sidewalks, not only in front of vacant lotage corners of streets and up stairs occupants of buildings of Broadway, Cortlands street and other great thoroughe fares, but in front of hotels and first floor merchasts. If the police do their duty, give the city the benofit of the fines, and have them removed. It will save many broked heads and suits against the city.

THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO RIDE.

The wife of Lieutenant C. M. Morris, inte commander of the rebel steamer Florida, arrived in this city by the Fulton. She is on her way to join her husband in England.

A NO. I BRAUTIFUL GRECIAN QURLE, FROM \$5 50 to \$100, at Mrs. B. PECKHAM'S ladies' hair dressing establishment, 251 Grand street, pear Bowery. Topsical Flowers, be, furnished. Grecians loaned and made of persons' own hair.

PROFESSOR GRANT'S CALCIUM LIGHTS FOR IL-lumination, private tableaux vivants, or skatting ponds, historical scenery, &c.; also stereopticons, chemical lega-tures, &c. Address Henry Johnson, agent, 246 Canal street, New York.